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(54) Title: PRIMATE ERYTHROCYTE BOUND MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY HETEROPOLYMERS

(57) Abstract

The application relates to the use of antibodies in therapy. Monoclonal antibody heteropolymers are described which comprise a monoclonal antibody specific for the CR1 receptor on primate red blood cells covalently linked to a second monoclonal antibody perception and unitary and the description of the description o

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Description

Primate Erythrocyte Bound Monoclonal Antibody Heteropolymers

Technical Field

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This invention is directed to mammalian primate erythrocytes to which have been bound cross-linked monoclonal antibodies (heteropolymers) specific for both the erythrocyte complement receptor protein (CR1), and (a 2nd antibody bound thereto specific for) a circulating 10 antigen. Methods of using these "franked" erythrocytes in diagnostic or assay methodology and therapeutic applications are also addressed.

Background Art

Mammalian primate erythrocytes (RBC's) have been 15 identified as essential to the body's ability to clear antibody/antigen immune complexes from the blood. Specifically, the RBC receptor (CR1), known to be specific for certain activated complement proteins (C3b, C3bi and C4b), has been implicated as playing an 20 important role in the primate's defense against microorganism infection by facilitating the neutralization and clearance of certain pathogenic substances. Other evidence shows that the binding of these immune complexes to RBC's at the CR1 site provides 25 a vehicle for rapid clearance of potentially pathogenic immune complexes from circulation. Enhancement of phagocytosis and circulatory transport of immune complexes have both been advanced as mechanisms by which the RBC's function in this immune response have been 30 described. See, e.g., Nelson, Science 118, 733-737 (1953) and Hebert et al, Kidney Int., 31, 877-885 (1987). In any event, defects in aspects of this RBC clearance

method have been demonstrated to be at least statistically related to a number of diseases and are believed to presage various disease activities.

Notwithstanding the importance of this function of 5 the RBC and the immune system, it is apparent that the RBC binding and clearance capacity therefore is confined to immune complexes recognized by the CR1 receptor, that is the immune complexes must contain large amounts of at least one of the activated Complement proteins C3b, C3bi, 10 or C4b. Thus, the mammalian primate or human body has no normal capacity to take advantage of the clearance system provided by the RBC binding ability to remove antigens not complexed with the identified activated complement proteins. It remains an object of those of skill in the 15 art to augment the natural capacity of the mammalian circulatory system to clear antigens through RBC binding ability to include the ability to bind immune complexes (antigen/antibody complexes) via CR1 to RBC's in the absence of activated complement proteins. These 20 augmented RBC's would be useful both in a therapeutic sense, as well as in an assay mode to identify the presence or absence of specific antigens.

Disclosure of the Invention

Specific monoclonal antibody heteropolymers are

25 prepared from Mabs specific to the CR1 RBC receptor and

Mabs to at least one other antigen and are then
heteropolymerized using established techniques, as
reported in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/592,801
filed October 4, 1990. This heteropolymer binds readily

30 to RBC's in whole blood, in numbers in good agreement
with the number of CR1 sites available. The RBC's, if
franked in vivo with the heteropolymer, will then bind

the antigen for which the remaining Mab is specific. These RBC's then can act therapeutically by facilitating the neutralization and clearance from the circulation of the bound antigen.

Alternatively, if introduced into a blood sample, 5 franked RBC's bind quite rapidly to the antigen for which the second Mab is specific, and can also be used to assay for the presence of that particular antigen. If necessary, labeling of the heteropolymer and/or the antigen with, e.g., radioactive iodine, can facilitate bound RBC counts, and both qualitative and quantitative assessment of the antigen presence. Specifically, the heteropolymer-franked RBC's can be used in clinical assays for antigens in the circulation as demonstrated by 15 the following example: Franked RBC's would be added to the plasma or anti-coagulated blood and allowed to bind the putative target antigen. After a wash the presence of the antigen bound to the RBC's would be revealed using appropriately labelled (e.g. either with 125I, or enzyme-20 linked) second antibodies to the target antigen. Such assays can be either qualitative or quantitative.

RBC's removed and isolated may also be used as therapeutic agents. Once franked with heteropolymer, these RBC's can be reintroduced into the patient, where, in the bloodstream, free antigen will be bound and immobilized on the RBC, and cleared in accordance with the body's RBC clearing mechanism, which has been identified but is not completely understood. The franked RBC's can be specific for known antigens, such as HIV (the AIDS virus), or for substances which, if present in large amounts, can induce or aggravate disease states, such as low-density lipoproteins, or cause adverse biological effects, such as elevated hormone levels.

Given the general ease with which Mabs can be prepared for any known antigen, the variety of franked RBC's imaginable is unlimited. Any antigen or immunogen found in the bloodstream can be addressed by this therapeutic method.

In an alternative embodiment, RBCs are franked with a "cocktail" of several heteropolymers which, in addition to binding the target antigen, also bind to several distinct and non-overlapping sites on CR1 of the RBC.

10 These points are identified, by e.g., Mabs 1B4, HB8592, and 57F. Experiments have demonstrated that by using two or more non-overlapping Mabs for binding to CR1 on the RBC, the number of Mab heteropolymers that can be bound to a single RBC is increased in numbers in good agreement with the number of available binding sites. This augments the capability of a relatively small number of RBC's to bind to a relatively larger amount of antigen, and can further facilitate removal of the antigen through the normal immune clearance system.

20 Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 illustrates heteropolymer mediated binding of Human IgG to erythrocytes as compared to controls (unfilled columns in Fig. 1b). Figure 2 reflects heteropolymer mediated saturation of binding of DNP₅BGG 25 to human erythrocytes.

Figures 3 A and B reflect in vivo clearance of injected antigen pursuant to the claimed invention.

Figures 4A and B gives similar data for another test individual.

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Figure 5A gives similar clearance data for an independent test in another individual.

Figure 5B traces the degree of change in $^{51}\mathrm{Cr}$ label throughout a clearance test.

Figures 6A, 6B and 6C reflect clearance of heteropolymers of the claimed invention from the circulation of a Rhesus monkey.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

As noted above, the flexibility of the franked RBC's 10 of this invention in addressing a variety of disease states is limited only by the varieties of different antigens present in or accessible to the circulatory system and to which Mab can be prepared. A variety of Mab heteropolymers have been prepared. In order to 15 attach to the RBC, the antigen-specific Mab is crosslinked with a Mab to the RBC complement receptor, CR1. Methods of cross-linking these antibodies are known to those of skill in the art. In the examples set forth below, some cross-linked heteropolymers were prepared 20 using N-succinimidyl 3-(2-pyridyldithio)propionate (SPDP) according to established, published procedures. For details as to this procedure, see, e.g., Karpovsky et al, J. Exp. Med. 160, 1686-1701 (1984); Perez et al, Nature, 316, 354-356 (1985) or Titus et al, Journal of 25 <u>Immunology</u>, 139, 3153-3158 (1987). In an alternative embodiment, heteropolymers are formed by biotinylating a Mab, incubating the biotin-bearing Mab with an avidin or strepavidin molecule, and then introducing a second Mab, also bearing a biotin linker arm. The thus-formed 30 heteropolymer is a Mab-biotin-avidin/strepavidin-biotin-Mab sandwich. Other procedures are known to those of

ordinary skill in the art. A full listing of Mab heteropolymers prepared appears in Table 1, <u>infra.</u>. Prototype antigens selected for targeting through preparation of appropriate heteropolymers include 5 dinitrophenylated bovine gamma globulin (DNP₅₅BGG), and human IgG. Both antigens and heteropolymers were iodinated by the IODOGEN method (<u>Fraker et al</u>, <u>Biochem</u>, <u>Biophys</u>, <u>Res</u>, <u>Commun</u>, 80, 849-857 (1978). Iodination provides one protocol for assay utilization, but of 10 course need not be practiced for the therapeutic aspects of the claimed invention.

Assays for CR1 levels on isolated RBC's followed standard methods, revealing about 200-500 epitopes per RBC, as bound to by anti-CR1 Mabs 1B4, 3D9 and HB8592.

15 Details regarding RBC binding, binding kinetics and observed values follow below.

Examples:

analyses: Between 0.1 and 1.0 ml of a 10%-50% dispersion of washed RBC's in bovine serum albumin/phosphate buffered saline (BSA-PBS) were reacted for 1 hr at room temperature, with shaking, with varying amounts (10-50 ul) of a dilution of one or more of the heteropolymers. The RBC's were then washed 3 times in BSA-PBS (to remove excess unbound heteropolymer) and, after reconstitution in either BSA-PBS or normal human serum (for experiments with ¹²⁵I-human IgG and DNP₅₅BGG, respectively), mixed with a small volume of ¹²⁵I-probe. After a further incubation (usually 1 hr at room temperature, with shaking), RBC-bound and free ¹²⁵I-antigens were separated by either of two procedures: RBC's were spun through oil

(typically 150 ul of reaction mixture was layered on 200 ul of a dibutyl-dinonyl phthalate mixture), or simply processed by two cycles of centrifugation and washing in BSA-PBS. RBC-associated ¹²⁵I counts were quantitated in a Beckman 5500 gamma counter.

2) "Whole Blood" binding kinetics: a) In most procedures blood was drawn into Alsever's and centrifuged. A portion of the supernatant was removed, and after the blood cells were redispersed to a final 10 hematocrit of 50%, a small amount of \$125I-DNPssBGG antigen was added. Varying amounts of heteropolymer were added directly to aliquots of these "whole blood" dispersions containing 125I-DNPss, BGG, and incubated with shaking at 37°C. RBC associated 125I counts were determined at 15 varying time points after centrifugation and washing steps. Selected aliquots of the reaction mixtures were also centrifuged through percoll to confirm that only RBC's (not white cells) bound the 125I-antigen. In some of these "whole blood" experiments, instead of using 20 Alsever's as an anti-coagulant, blood was drawn into EDTA or citrate and used at once in a similar manner. A few comparable "whole blood" experiments were also performed with 125I-human IgG as the target antigen. In these experiments washed RBC's were dispersed in BSA-PBS, to 25 avoid the potential confounding effect of endogenous serum-associated IgG. b) In other kinetic experiments one volume of RBC's was franked with saturating amounts of the heteropolymer, and after three washes was added to 10 volumes of anti-coagulated blood containing 30 125I-DNP₅₅BGG, and incubated at 37°C. Aliquots of the dispersions were processed periodically to determine RBC-associated 125I counts.

Direct binding of 125I-heteropolymers to a number of

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matrices was determined in procedures analogous to those described above. For example, duplicate aliquots of 100 ul of ¹²⁵I-heteropolymer #4 (see below) were incubated for one hour at room temperature, with shaking, with either 100 ul of a 50% dispersion of human RBC's, or 100 ul of a 33% dispersion of human IgG-Sepharose. Samples were then subjected to two cycles of centrifugation and washing and the levels of matrix-bound ¹²⁵I counts were determined. Direct binding to human RBC's of the ¹²⁵I-heteropolymers was also determined as a function of time at 37°C.

Control experiments tested for the specificity of antigen binding by heteropolymer treated REC's and verified the requirement for CR1. These experiments included the use of heteropolymer-treated sheep RBC's (which lack CR1), naive (untreated) human RBC's, and excess homologous monomeric Mabs (in ascites fluid) which blocked the action of the heteropolymers.

Results

Preparation and Initial Characterizations of
Heteropolymers. We prepared a number of heteropolymers
by SPDP cross-linking, and examined the ability of these
heteropolymers to react with human RBC's and facilitate
binding of specific antigens. Preliminary data (Table 1),
using mixtures of saturating amounts of unfractionated

25 material (containing heteropolymers and non-cross-linked
monomers), demonstrated specific RBC-associated binding
of the ¹²⁵I-antigens. An excess of ¹²⁵I-antigen was used
in order to determine the maximum number of ligands bound
per RBC. For each heteropolymer mixture the results

30 (Table 1) are in good agreement with the typical number
of CR1 epitopes (200-500) recognized by the anti-CR1
Mabs.

Heteropolymer mixture #1 can facilitate binding via two noncompeting Mabs to CR1, 1B4 and HB8592. This mixture can, therefore, place approximately twice as many anti-IgG heteropolymers on the RBC's as a heteropolymer 5 containing only one anti-CR1 Mab. The maximum 125I-human IqG bound to such "doubly-franked" RBC's is nearly equal to the sum of the 125I-IqG bound to RBC's franked with two individual components of the mixture (Table 1); this illustrates the principle of additivity. Dose-response 10 experiments with heteropolymer #1 and other heteropolymers (Table 1, and see below) confirm that RBC binding of both heteropolymer and 125I-antigen is saturable. "Background" binding of antigen to naive RBC's is low, and use of heteropolymers with "irrelevant" 15 specificities for the target ligands (e.g. 8Ell (anti-C3b) X HB8592) gave no binding (Table 1).

Binding Isotherms with Isolated Heteropolymers.

Heteropolymer mixtures were further purified by gel
permeation chromatography, and the highest mw
20 subfractions (ca. corresponding to trimers and larger
species) were used to quantitate binding (Figures 1 and
2). In these experiments binding of ¹²⁵I-antigens to
franked RBC's was determined, after two cycles of
centrifugation and washing with BSA-PBS, by direct
25 counting of the RBC pellets.

At saturating input of heteropolymer, the maximum number of antigen molecules bound per RBC is in good quantitative agreement with our initial survey results using unfractionated heteropolymer mixtures and centrifugation through oil to separate bound from free 125I-antigen. These experiments confirm that binding is saturable, since use of excess quantities of a single heteropolymer or 125I-antigen does not increase binding

beyond the saturation level (typically 200-1000 antigens per RBC, Figures 1 and 2). Analysis of results with blood from two donors (Figure 1a and 1b) demonstrates that maximum binding reflects the number of CR1 epitopes per RBC characteristic of the individual donor. The principle of additivity is also illustrated in experiments in which RBC's were franked with a combined mixture of two heteropolymers (Figure 1a). The combined action of the two heteropolymers in facilitating binding of the 10 1251-antigen is close to the sum of the action of each species individually.

Bi-specificity of the heteropolymers was demonstrated in inhibition experiments using an excess of homologous monomeric Mab. Our goal was either to block 15 binding of heteropolymer to RBC's (using an appropriate anti-CR1 Mab to thus preclude binding of 125I-DNPssBGG). or to inhibit directly binding of 125I-DNP_{RE}BGG to franked RBC's (using the appropriate monomeric anti-DNP Mab). In all cases more than 90% of specific binding was reduced 20 by these procedures (Figure 1b). Sheep RBC's lack CR1. and as anticipated, heteropolymers directed against CR1 do not facilitate binding of the 125I-antigen to sheep RBC's (Figure 1b). Finally, the dual specificities of two of the heteropolymer mixtures was confirmed by labelling them with 125I and examining their binding to human RBC's 25 and to a Sepharose 4B matrix containing their respective target antigens (Table 2). The results demonstrate that the isolated polymers bind to both of their respective matrices, and also confirm that their direct binding to 30 human RBC's is rapid at 37°C.

TABLE 1

Survey of Cross-Linked Mab Heteropolymer Mixtures in facilitating

Antiqen Binding to RBC's

A. Binding of 125I-Human IgG

Hetero Polymer #	Mab #1 (Specificity) X Mab #2 (Specificity) *	Molecules* IGG Bound/ RBC
1	1B4(anti-CR1) X HB43 (anti-IgG) and HB8592 (anti-CR1)	1150
2	HB43(anti-IgG) X HB8592 (anti-CR1)	601
3	HB43(anti-IgG) X lB4(anti-CRI)	492
4	HB43(anti-IgG) X HB8592(anti-CR1)	357
5	HB43(anti-IgG) X lB4(anti-CR1)	479
6	HB43(anti-IgG) X 3D9(anti-CR1)	355
7	HB43(anti-IgG) X 57F(anti-CR1)	387
Control	8Ell(anti-C3b) X HB8592(anti-CR1)	-2

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B. Binding of 125I-(DNP)55BGG

DNP ₅₅ BGG		
Heteropolymer	Mab #1 (Specificity) X Mab #2 (Specificity) *	Molecules Bound/ RBC
8	3D9(anti-CR1) X 2A1(anti-DNP)	191
9	3D9(anti-CR1) X 23D(anti-CR1)	243
10	23D1(anti-DNP) X HB8592(anti-CR1)	129
11	23D1(anti-DNP) X 1B4(anti-CR1)	255
12	23D1(anti-DNP) X 3D9(anti-CR1)	196
13	HB8592(anti-CR) X 2A1(anti-DNP)	95
14	HB8592(anti-CR1) X 23D1(anti-DNP)	133
15	1B4(anti-CR1) X 23D1(anti-DNP)	279
16	1B4(anti-CR1) X 2A1(anti-DNP)	236
Control	8E11(anti-C3b) x HB8592(anti-CR1)	-11

C. Demonstration of Saturation of Binding with Heteropolymer ${\it \#1}$ and ${\it ^{125}I\text{--}IgG}$

Relative Heteropolymer Concentration	Relative ¹²⁵ I- Human Igg Concentration	Molecules** IgG Bound RBC
5	5	994
5	1	868
5	0.2	343
1 ***	1 ****	777
0.2	1	205

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Table 1 footnotes

- * For each heteropolymer listed, the first Mab was reduced with dithiothreitol (after reacting with SPDP) and then coupled to the second SPDP-reacted Mab. Heteropolymers #2 and #4 represent preparations with HB8592 purified via protein G and octanoic acid-50% saturated ammonium sulfate, respectively. Heteropolymer #1 was prepared by simultaneously reacting a cocktail of SPDP-coupled and reduced 1B4 and HB8592 with SPDP-coupled HB43.
- ** Binding was determined by centrifuging RBC's through oil. Background binding to naive human RBC's was 40 human IgG and 60 DNP₅₅BGG per RBC respectively, and was subtracted to give the net specific binding reported. In parts A and B predetermined saturating inputs of both heteropolymer and ¹²⁵I-antigen were used.
- *** *1" corresponds to 3.0 ug/ml of heteropolymer in a 12.5% hematocrit.
- *****1" corresponds to 0.92 ug/ml ¹²⁵I-human IgG in a 12.5% hematocrit.

TABLE 2

Binding of 125I-Labelled Heteropolymers to Human RBC's or to Sepharose Coupled Ligands

	% Bound *			
	Human RBC's	IgG (or DNP)- Sepharose		
#4, unfractionated mixtu (HB43(anti-IgG) X HB8592(anti-CR1))	re 45 ± 5	55 ± 5		
#4, isolated polymer fraction	65 ± 3	86 ± 5		
#11, unfractionated mixture (23D1(anti- DNP) X 1B4 (anti- CR1))	34 ± 6 **	86 ± 5		
#11, isolated polymer fraction	72 ± 2 ***	85 ± 5		

Table 2 footnotes

- Bound after incubation (with an excess of binding matrix) for one hour at either room temperature (Sepharose samples) and/or 37 °C (RBC's were examined at both temperatures). IgG Sepharose was used as the binding matrix for heteropolymer #4, and DNP-Sepharose (containing a dinitrophenylated Mab to IgM) was used for #11. All samples were corrected for background binding (5% or less) to sheep RBC's or naive (unreacted) Sepharose.
- ** Binding was 30% and 32% respectively after incubation for either two or five minutes at 37°C.
- Binding was 57% and 69%, respectively, after incubation for either two minutes or five minutes at 37°C.

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15 PRIMATE STUDIES:

Materials and Methods

Mab and Heteropolymer Preparation. Purified Mab to CR1. the DNP group, and human IgG were biotinylated following 5 published procedures Wilchek et al, Meth, Enzym., 184, Avidin-Biotin Technology (1990) using the "long-arm" biotinylating agent biotinyl-N-hydroxy succinimide (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA) at molar inputs of biotin to Mab between 5 to 1 and 20 to 1. The Iodogen 10 method Fraker et al. Bioc & Biop. Review, 80:849 (1978) was used to label both naive and biotinylated Mab with 1251. DNP-BGG Little et al. Neth. Immun. Immunochem, 1:128 (1967), was similarly labelled with either 1251 or 131I. Preparation of soluble cross-linked heteropolymer 15 (HP) which specifically bound to primate E was accomplished by first incubating (at 37°C for 30 min) a biotinylated Mab to CR1 (either 1B410 or E1110) with excess strepavidin (SA) (Gibco BRI, Gaithersburg, MD). Subsequently a biotinylated Mab to the DNP group (23D1s) 20 was incubated with this complex, and the resultant HP was then used without further purification. Detailed dose response tests were performed to determine the optimum inputs of biotinylated first Mab (anti-CR1), SA, and biotinylated second Mab (antiDNP) in the generation of 25 soluble HP which bound to human and other primate erythrocyte (E) and facilitated antigen (Ag) binding. In all cases we verified that the HP used in these studies neither directly bound to, nor facilitated Ag binding to sheep E, which lack CR1 (22).

30 RIA. Varying inputs of radiolabelled HP (either the anti-CR1 Mab or anti-DNP Mab portion of the HP was radiolabelled) were incubated at 37°C for 5-15 min with a

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50% dispersion (in homologous serum) of human or primate E [a "whole blood" simulation Ross et al, J. Immunol., 135:2005 (1985)]. Binding was determined by counting the E pellets after centrifugation and washing. To quantitate HP-mediated binding of Ag (DNP₅BGG) to E, the radiolabelled Ag was first added to the "whole blood" dispersion, and after varying amounts of HP were added, the samples were processed similarly. In some in vitro Ag-binding experiments freshly drawn anti-coagulated blood was used, and Ag binding via the HP was also

demonstrable.

The number of CR1 epitopes per E was determined by incubating an excess of ¹²⁵I-labelled Mab to CR1 with isolated and washed E followed by one of two procedures for separation of E-"bound" from "free" Mab: 1) the incubation mixtures were layered on dibutyldinonyl phthalate mixtures, and after a centrifugation step the samples were frozen and the E pellets were cut off or counted; 2) alteratively, the E dispersions were simply pelleted, and after washing, the E pellets were counted. In all RIA, sheep E controls were included to provide a background correction, which was less than 10% of specific binding to human E.

In Vivo Experiments. We followed protocols similar
to those we previously reported for studying clearance of
IC from the circulation of both non-primates and
primates. See, e.g., Taylor et al, J. Immunol. 139:1240
(1987). The doses of Ag and HP chosen in these
experiments were optimized based on titration experiments
performed in anti-coagulated whole blood samples from
both humans and monkeys: 1 ml of radiolabelled DNP₅BGG
(3-25 µg) in PBS was infused within 30 seconds into the
catheterized saphenous vein of a 1 kg squirrel monkey

sedated with ketamine and maintained under anesthesia with halothane. After 20-35 min, 1 ml of HP (0.25-1.0 mg, either radiolabelled or unlabelled) was injected. Multiple blood aliquots (anti-coagulated in citrate) were 5 collected over the entire course of the experiment to determine both the "endogenous" clearance rate of the Aq. and the effect of the HP on its clearance and E binding. Within 10 min of collection each blood sample was centrifuged and the cell pellet washed and counted to 10 determine binding. The supernatants were combined and counted, and aliquots were examined to determine net 5% TCA-precipitable counts. Initially after injection, 1251 and 131I counts recovered in the plasma supernatants were > 95% and 85% TCA-precipitable, respectively. Finally, 15 selected blood samples were centrifuged through percoll gradients (which only allowed pelleting of the E). This procedure verified that cell-associated counts were only due to E binding. The same basic methodology was followed in our experiments with 10 kg rhesus monkeys, 20 except 0.25 mg of HP was injected.

Ouantitative Analyses. The specific activities of all proteins were determined and used to calculate the number of molecules bound per E for both in vivo and in vitro experiments. In the case of double or triple label 25 experiments (125 and 131, or both iodine labels and 51Cr) the overlap of different labels as determined in calibration experiments and corrected counts were calculated for each isotope.

Assays for an Immune Response. We used a solid phase
30 "Ag capture" assay, Khazaeli et al, J. Biol Resp. Med.,
91:178 (1990) to determine if the animals developed an
immune response to the injected agents (biotinylated
mouse IgG, SA, and DNP_RBGG). This assay protocol

involves adhering the Ag to a solid matrix, adding a 10-20 fold dilution of the serum to be tested, and then adding radiolabelled Ag as a probe. Specific binding of antibody to solid phase Ag then allows capture of solution phase radiolabelled Ag. Positive controls in this assay included goat anti-mouse IgG, biotinylated human IgG, and mouse anti-DNP Mab (23D1), respectively. Alternatively, in order to increase the sensitivity of the assay, we "developed" with 125I-Mab HB43, an anti-human IgG Mab which cross reacts with monkey IgG. This "direct" solid phase RIA, is considerably more sensitive for detecting a weak immune response (see below).

Results

15 In vitro preliminary studies in squirrel monkeys. We focused on the use of anti-CR1 Mab 1B4 in these clearance studies because it is known to block the "active site" (the C3b-binding site) of human CR1 (30) and therefore should bind close to the most "biologically relevant" 20 site in terms of in vivo recognition by fixed receptors on liver or spleen cells. Also, large amounts of this Mab can be prepared from the hybridoma cell line. However, even though there are a moderate number of CR1 epitopes on the squirrel monkeys' E, defined by Mab Ell, there are 25 far fewer binding sites for Mab 1B4 on the monkey E compared to the number found on human E (Table 3A). Binding of Mab 1B4 to squirrel monkey E also appears to be of lower avidity than binding to human E, as evidenced by the relatively large reduction in net binding to the 30 monkey E when the E are processed through a wash step. rather than simply by centrifugation through oil (Table 3A).

A CA1 CD2 A1 V1 A20

Construction of soluble, cross-linked multivalent A/B HP with biotinylated Mab 1B410 considerably enhanced binding of this Mab to squirrel monkey E and caused an increase in binding to human E as well (Table 3B). Use 5 of a radiolabel on the "second" (anti-target Ag) biotinylated Mab 23D1, of the HP confirms that the A/B system does fix both biotinylated Mab to the primate E (Table 3B). The specificity of binding is confirmed by several experiments: "Background" binding of the HP to 10 sheep E (lacking CR1) is much lower; and, in the presence of excess monomeric Mab 1B4 (in ascites), HP-mediated binding to human and squirrel monkey E is almost completely eliminated (Table 3C). The results also indicate that more HP-associated, biotinylated 23D1s, Mab 15 is bound to the E than the biotinylated 18410 Mab, which is probably a consequence of amplification due to the multivalent nature of the A/B system. Finally, binding of the biotinylated 23D1, Mab to primate E is reduced to background levels (the level seen for sheep E) unless 20 both biotinylated 1B410 and SA are used for construction of the HP (data not shown).

We used A/B HP prepared with biotinylated preparations of Mab 23D1 and either Mab 1B4 or Mab E11, to facilitate binding of the target Ag DNP₅BGG to primate 25 E (Table 4) in a "whole blood" experiment analogous to those we have reported using SPDP-HP. It can be seen that comparable binding is obtained for HP constructed with either Mab E11₁₀ or 1B4₁₀. We chose DNP₅BGG (a protein with a low degree of dinitrophenylation) as 30 binding substrate for the in vivo experiments because it has been reported that a high degree of protein dinitrophenylation leads to rapid clearance from the circulation, even in the absence of specific antibody. The affinity of Mab 23D1 for the DNP group is only ca.

 5×10^6 L/M, which is consistent with the moderate degree of binding (20-40%) of the DNP₅BGG by E opsonized with a HP containing $23D1_5$. A similar level of target λg binding is demonstrable in vivo (see below).

5 In vitro preliminary studies in cynomolgus and rhesus monkeys. The level of detectable E11 and 1B4 epitopes on the E of these primates was higher than that detected for the squirrel monkeys (Table 5). In these experiments we prepared A/B HP using a "second" Mab, HB43, specific for 10 human IgG. In vitro binding of these HP to monkey E is quantitated in Table 5.

In vivo clearance kinetics in squirrel monkeys.

Injection of 1251-DNP₅BGG into the squirrel monkey leads to rapid clearance of a fraction of the injected Ag

15 counts within the first 15 min, followed by a slower phase of clearance (Figure 3). After 20 min we injected a 184₁₀/SA/23Dl₅ HP specific for both monkey CR1 and the DNP group. Within 10 min ca. 20% of the circulating Ag counts became E bound. Consistent with the uptake of counts by the E is a comparable loss of counts from the plasma. It is also evident that the majority of E-associated counts are then cleared rapidly from the circulation because a significant number of these counts do not return to the plasma phase. Finally, those plasma counts that did not become E-bound continued to be cleared at a relatively slow rate.

Clearance of both target Ag and HP were then followed through a double label experiment. The data in Figure 4A again demonstrates a rapid initial phase of Ag 30 clearance followed by an approximate plateau and subsequent slow removal of plasma counts from the circulation. It should also be noted that less than 3%

of the counts are E-bound before the HP is injected (the first 25 min of the experiment). Upon injection of HP there is a drop in Ag-associated plasma counts which is ca. equal to the generation of E-associated counts (a 5 maximum of 31% of the Ag was bound to the E). It is also evident that the majority of injected HP binds rapidly to the E (a maximum of 60%), and that subsequently both E-bound HP and Ag are cleared at approximately the same rate. The co-clearance of E-bound HP and Ag is also 10 illustrated in a comparable experiment performed on a different squirrel monkey (Figure 4B). We also conducted an independent double label experiment similar to that depicted in Figure 4A, except the 125I label was on the 23Dl₅ Mab (Figure 5A). The rate of clearance of E-bound 15 HP and Ag was again approximately the same, and although maximum binding of Ag was 35% (comparable to earlier experiments), the maximum level of HP binding (defined by the 125I label on the anti-DNP 23Dls Mab) was reduced to 40%.

In order to address the potential problem associated 20 with HP-mediated lysis of the E we co-injected 51Cr labelled E along with 131I-labelled DNPsBGG, and followed both labels. After 35 min 125I-labelled HP was injected and the clearance of all 3 radiolabels was monitored. 25 Clearance of the 131 I- labelled DNPsBGG (ca. 25% maximum E binding) followed the same trends seen in previous experiments (data not shown). Throughout the course of the experiment the 51Cr label remained associated with the E pellet, and showed no significant change before or 30 after injection of the HP (Figure 5B). In this experiment, 50% of the 125I-labelled HP bound to the E, and the E-associated counts were cleared rapidly. Also, in agreement with the results shown in Figure 2, the fraction of HP that remained in the plasma was cleared at

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a much slower rate.

In vivo clearance kinetics in rhesus monkeys. The level of HP binding (per E) to the squirrel monkey E was much higher than the level of Ag binding, and it is unlikely 5 the Ag itself facilitated clearance of the majority of E-bound HP. However, it is important to demonstrate that the present results can be generalized to other primates and other Ag systems. For these reasons we used the A/B system to prepare HP with biotinylated Mab 1B410 and human 10 IgGs, or with biotinylated Mab Ellio and HB43s (an anti-human IgG Mab), and injected these HP into rhesus monkeys (Figures 6A and 6B). In these experiments we followed the HP with a radiolabel on the "second" antibody, rather than on the anti-CR1 Mab. The results 15 clearly indicate that both these HP bind to the primate E and are then cleared rapidly. Once again the fraction of HP that did not bind to the E and remained in the plasma was cleared at a much slower rate. Consecutive experiments were performed on the same animals by 20 injecting a second HP one hr after the first HP (Figure 6C). The overall clearance of the second HP from the animal's circulation was similar to that seen for the first injected HP.

We measured CR1 on E of the rhesus monkeys from
blood aliquots obtained before and during these
experiments, and the level remained constant
(approximately equal to the levels reported in Table 5)
during the course of the procedure. Finally, we tested
these HP for complement activation and C3b capture after
binding to human E in homologous serum. In some
instances there was a low level of C3b binding to the E,
but in other cases (e.g., the 1B4/human IgG HP) we could
not detect any C3b bound to the E above background

levels.

In preliminary experiments (performed 3 weeks prior to those discussed above) we injected rhesus monkeys with a "partial HP" containing radiolabelled-biotinylated 5 anti-CR1 Mab and SA only (lacking the "second" biotinylated antibody) in order to determine if this "partial" HP could bind E and be cleared from circulation. Although binding of this complex to E was approximately the same as that of a complete HP 10 (184₁₀/SA/23Dl₅), no significant short term clearance was observed, but after 3 weeks all counts had been cleared from circulation.

Development of an immune response. We conducted a total of 3 similar experiments on each of 2 squirrel monkeys 15 over a period of 6 weeks. In order to determine if the squirrel monkeys developed an immune response to any of the injected materials (biotinylated mouse Mab, SA, or DNP_BGG) we performed solid phase "Ag capture" assays on serum samples taken from the animals before, during, and 20 after the experiments. The results of this assay indicate that there was no demonstrable immune response in any of the squirrel monkeys over a period of 10 weeks. However, by assaying with the more sensitive "direct" solid phase RIA (see Materials and Methods), we found 25 that squirrel monkey 417 (but not 899) exhibited a rather weak, but demonstrable immune response to mouse IqG (but not SA or DNP_sBGG). The immune response was detected after the first experiment and increased slightly with time. Dose response experiments using the "direct" RIA 30 indicate the binding capacity of a 5-fold dilution of serum from squirrel monkey 417 was comparable to that of a 10,000 fold dilution of goat antimouse IqG.

Two clearance experiments were performed on the rhesus monkeys, with a 3 week interval between experiments (see above). The "Ag capture" assay revealed no immune response to biotinviated mouse IgG during this 5 time period. However, there was weak but measurable binding of mouse IgG by sera from both rhesus monkeys 2 weeks after the second experiment (data not shown). Using the more sensitive "direct" solid phase RIA (probing with 125I-HB43) indicated the rhesus monkeys had 10 developed a weak but demonstrable immune response to biotinylated mouse IgG by the start of the second clearance experiment. The titer of anti-mouse antibodies peaked 2 weeks after the second experiment and persisted in the circulation for more than 2 months. At the peak 15 level (day 36), dose response experiments indicated that binding of the ¹²⁵I-HB43 probe corresponded to a titer of approximately 0.5% of that of a positive control, goat anti-mouse IgG (Table 6).

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Table 3. Binding of anti-CR1 Mab and HP to Squirrel Monkey and Human E.

A. Direct CR1 Measurements

			Molect	les Bound per	per E ^b		
mAb	Binding Assay	S. Monkey 899	S. Monkey	S. Monkey 413	Human 1	Human_2	
E11	Oil	310	280	290	578	510	
B11	Washed Pellet	210	210	230	480	410	
184	Oil	50	30	50	340	330	
1B4	Washed Pellet	10	5	20	280	260	
1B4 ₁₀ c	oil	55	30	60	310	310	
1B4 ₁₀	Washed Pellet	10	4	20	240	230	

B. "Whole Blood" Solution Phase Binding of HPa,d

	Molecules Bound per E					
НР	S. Monkey 899	S. Monkey	S. Monkey 413	Human 1	Human 2	
125 _{I-184₁₀/SA/23D1₅}	640	470	600	1090	780	
1B4 ₁₀ /SA/ ¹²⁵ I-23D1 ₅	4700	2330	5220	7460	4660	

C. Inhibition of "Whole Blood" Solution Phase Binding by 184 Ascites

	Molecules Bound per E					
НР	Inhibitor	S. Monkey	S. Monkey 413	Human 1	Human	
125 _{I-1B4₁₀/SA/23D1₅}		430	350	510	1000	
125I-1B4 ₁₀ /SA23D1 ₅	1B4 Ascites ^f	54	43	60	-5	

Footnotes for Table 3

- a) The uncertainties in the reported values average ± 5%. In all cases controls with sheet E (which lack CR1) were used to subtract the background baseline level due to nonspecific binding.
- b) E were separated from excess iodinated Mab by either spinning through an oil cushion or by pelleting and washing the E.
- c) The subscripts refer to the molar input of biotin to Mab in the biotinylation reaction.
- d) HP were assembled in solution and added to a dispersion of E in serum containing 0.01M EDTA, and bound molecules (Mab) were determined by counting the washed E pellets.
- e) Half as much HP was incubated per E in part C compared to part B.
- f) 1B4 ascites fluid was pre-incubated with the E in part C. Irrelevant ascites from an anti-C3b Mab gave the same results as the sample lacking inhibitor.

Table 4. HP-mediated Binding ("Whole Blood" Solution Phase Assay) of \$151-DNP_5BCG to Squirrel Monkey and Human E.*

HP			% Bound		
	S. Monkey 899	S. Monkey	S. Monkey	Human	Sheep
E11 ₁₀ /SA/23D1 ₅	28	38	20	34	1
1B4 ₁₀ /SA/23D1 ₅	42	44	14	38	1
(Naive E)	2	2	2	1	1

Molar impact of \$^{125}DNP_5BGG corresponded to 37 molecules per E.

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Table 5. Binding of Anti-CR1 Mab and HP to Rhesus Monkey and Cynomolgus Monkey E.

	Molecules Bound Per Ea				
<u>Mab</u> b	Rh Monkey 4F	Rh. Monkey 941	Cy Monkey 69		
E11	1760	1580	1480		
184	230	140	110		
HPC	_				
$1B4_{10}/SA/^{125}I-HB43_{5}$	710	700	480		
${\tt E11_{10}/SA/^{125}I-HB43_{5}}$	620	610	460		

- a) See footnote a, Table 3.
- b) Binding was determined by centrifugation through oil.
- c) A relatively low input of HP per E was used. Binding values in a comparable experiment for an E Sample from a human were 1330 and 810 molecules per E for the HP containing 1B4₁₀ and E11₁₀, respectively.

Table 6. Representative "Direct" Solid Phase RIA for
Detecting an Immune Response to Biotinylated
Mouse IgG in Rhesus Monkey 941.

A. Binding as a Function of Timea

% 125I-HB43 Bound to Soli	d Phase Matrix
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Serum Sourceb	1B420°	Mouse IgG ^c
pre-immune serum	0.8	0.8
Day 21	6.9	6.1
Day 36	9.5	15.3
Day 49	4.7	8.0
Day 80	1.9	2.9
goat anti-mouse IgG (Control)	23.2	22.2

B. Relative Titer (Day 36)

Serum and Dilution	% 125I-HB43 Bound	d to Solid Phase Matrix ^d
	1B4 ₂₀ °	Mouse Iggc
Serum/20	12.2	15.6
Serum/80	4.0	4.2
goat anti-mouse IgG/20	00 36.5	37.0
goat anti-mouse IgG/10	000 21.5	30.0
goat anti-mouse IgG/50	000 4.6	9.4

- a) The first injection (of the "partial" HP) was on day 1, and on day 21 the "complete" HP was injected.
- All sera were examined at a 10 fold dilution.
- c) Either $1\mathrm{B4}_{20}$ or mouse IgG was used to first coat the plates (see Materials and Methods).
- d) A different input of ¹²⁵I-HB43 was used in Part B compared to that in Part A.

METHODS OF USE

The franked RBC's described above have immediate application in a variety of research, clinical diagnostic, or therapeutic uses. The most important are 5 therapeutic uses, which can include (1) using a franked RBC of the invention with specificity to an antigen such as HIV to clear free antigen from the blood of a human or primate patient, (2) using a franked erythrocyte with a specific Mab to clearfor a non-immunogenic but potentially "pathogenic" target such as LDL which has been linked to atherosclerosis and (3) using a franked erythrocyte with Mab specificity for the natural ligand of CR1 (such as C3b) where the number of naturally occurring receptors in an individual patient has 15 decreased, such as in systemic lupus erythematosus. Of course, the specific antigens or antibody targets identified above are exemplary only, and virtually any circulating microorganism, virus, compound and the like to which a Mab can be prepared can be subject to 20 therapeutic treatment through the invention.

The franked erythrocytes may be prepared and introduced for therapeutic use in either of three methods. First, the bi-specific heteropolymer comprised of at least two cross-linked Mab, one specific for the RBC and the other for the antigen, may be introduced directly to the bloodstream through inoculation.

Alternatively, a small amount of RBC's can be extracted from the patient, and bound to the heteropolymer in sterile in vitro conditions and then reintroduced into the patient. Finally, in cases of low CR1 or low RBC disease states, franked erythrocytes from a compatable heterologous matched blood donor can be used. In any of the above examples, a "cocktail" of several

heteropolymers (see results section) can be used. Given the high binding capacity of the heteropolymer to the RBC, direct injection of the heteropolymer can be as effective as in vitro preparation of the franked erythrocyte, followed by inoculation.

In addition to taking advantage of the body's natural defenses by augmenting the natural immune defense system, binding the heteropolymer to the RBC's (either in vitro or in vivo) may reduce or remove any

10 "immunogenicity" that would be characteristic of Mabs prepared from mouse hosts and the like. In fact, currently, the vast majority of monoclonal antibodies are produced in mice. Mab treatment thus suffers, at least to some degree, from the body's natural immune response against the mouse Mab which would thus prevent the Mab from binding to its target antigen. As the number of heteropolymers bound per RBC is relatively small (below about 500) the Mab itself may not be recognized as foreign, and the host immune response may not be

20 triggered, or at least, will be significantly reduced. This appears to be born out by the results reported. Use of available human Mabs to prepare heteropolymers should also eliminate any host immune response.

The dosage and treatment regimen will vary from

25 antigen to antigen, individual to individual, and disease
state. In general, these can be determined on an
empirical basis. An extreme minority of available RBC's
may be used effectively in conferring therapeutic
treatment. This is due in part to the vast numbers of

30 RBC's present in the blood, in contrast to most antigens.
As an example, the level of HIV which circulates free in
the blood has been suggested as the most cytopathic form
of HIV. High levels of HIV in the circulation appear to

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correlate with disease activity. Yet, this level ranges between 1,000 and 50,000 virus particles per ml. Ho et al, New England Journal of Medicine, 321, 1621-1625 (1989), Coombs et al., ibid, 1626-1631. In contrast, the 5 number of RBC per ml in circulation is many orders of magnitude greater, and accordingly, even a small minority of available RBC's treated according to the claimed invention should be sufficient to confer therapeutic treatment, given the appropriate anti-CR1/anti-HIV 10 franked RBC. As exemplary levels only, in the treatment of AIDS, an intravenous administration of no more than 1-4 mg of appropriate heteropolymer should be sufficient to frank the patients' RBC's for quantitative binding of circulating HIV. With sufficiently high avidity anti-HIV 15 antibodies in the heteropolymer (easily achieved by standard methods) it should be possible to use considerably less heteropolymer (µg amounts). See the * Detailed Calculations Section* for a more complete analysis of this problem. Alternatively, if the RBC's of 20 the patient are first removed and franked with heteropolymer and then re-injected, the dose administration of franked erythrocytes would be considerably less than 1 "unit" (1 pint) of blood. Use of ca. 50-100 ml of franked RBC's (a few % of total 25 circulating RBC's) should be adequate. The low levels needed are a consequence of the fact that even under conditions of high disease activity the concentration of infectious agent in the blood (e.g. HIV) is many orders of magnitude lower than the concentration of RBC's.

This invention has been described by reference both to generic description and specific embodiment. Examples provided are not intended to be limiting unless so specified, and variations will occur to those of ordinary skill in the art without the exercise of inventive

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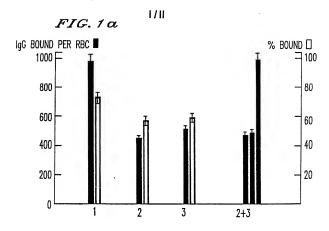
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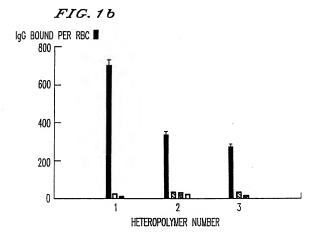
faculty. The invention embraces these alternatives, save for the limitations imposed by the claims set forth below.

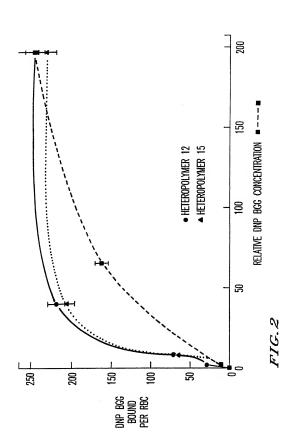
Claims

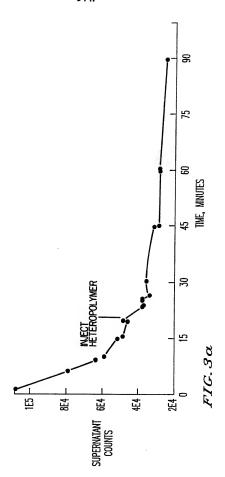
- A mammalian erythrocyte bound to a first
- 2 monoclonal antibody at a receptor site for which said
- 3 first monoclonal antibody is specific, said first
- 4 monoclonal antibody being cross-linked to a second
- 5 monoclonal antibody specific for an antigen present in
- 6 the mammalian primate circulatory system.
- The erythrocyte of Claim 1, wherein said
- 2 erythrocyte bears, on its surface, up to 1000 of said
- 3 first monoclonal antibodies bound to said second
- 4 monoclonal antibody.
- The erythrocyte of Claim 1, wherein said
- 2 erythrocyte receptor site is the CR1 protein.
- The erythrocyte of Claim 1, wherein said antigen
- 2 is selected from the group consisting of a virus,
- 3 microorganism or toxic chemical.
- The erythrocyte of Claim 1, wherein said antigen
- 2 is a non-immunogenic substance found in the mammalian
- 3 primate circulatory system, which can become pathogenic
- 4 or cause adverse biological effects if present in
- 5 sufficient amounts.
- The erythrocyte of Claim 4, wherein said antigen
- 2 is HIV (The AIDS virus).
- 7. The erythrocyte of Claim 5, wherein said antigen
- 2 is low density lipoprotein.
- 8. The erythrocyte of Claim 1, wherein said
- 2 erythrocyte is a human or other primate erythrocyte.

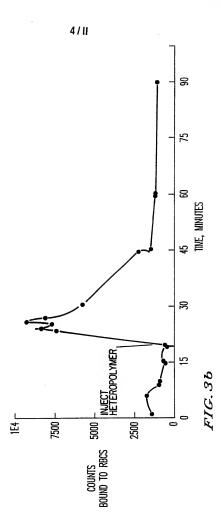
- 9. The erythrocyte of Claim 8, wherein said monoclonal antibodies are obtained from a non-human host,
- 3 or from human sources.
- 1 10. A method of therapy treating a mammalian
- 2 primate individual having an antigen present in its
- 3 circulatory system, comprising inoculating said
- 4 individual with a monoclonal antibody heteropolymer
- 5 comprising a first monoclonal antibody specific for a
- 6 receptor site on the surface of the erythrocyte of said
- 7 individual, said first monoclonal antibody being cross-
- 8 linked to a second monoclonal antibody specific for said
- 9 antigen, said inoculation being performed in sufficient
- 10 amounts to permit binding of sufficient antigen to
- 11 erythrocytes via said antibodies to reduce the amount of
- 12 free antigen in circulation in said individual to a level
- 13 below that which is cytopathic or which causes adverse
- 14 biological effects to said individual. The inoculation
- 15 may be performed either directly with said heteropolymer.
- 16 or indirectly by franking the patient's erythrocytes (or
- 17 erythrocytes from a compatible donor) with said
- 18 heteropolymer, followed by inoculation of the franked
- 19 erythrocytes.











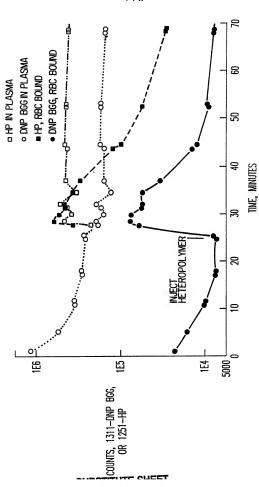


FIG. 4a

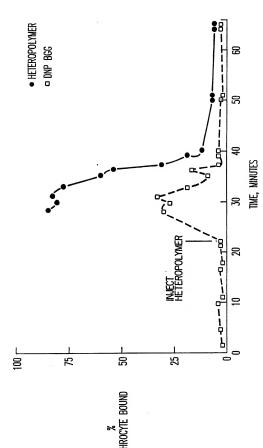
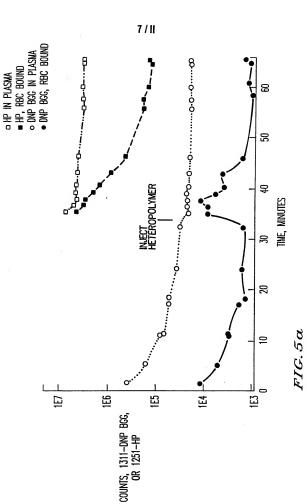
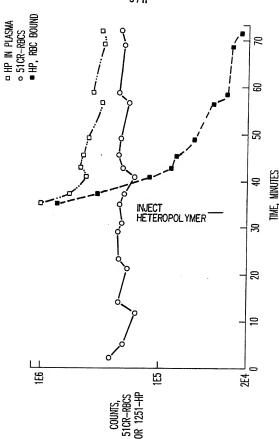


FIG. 4b





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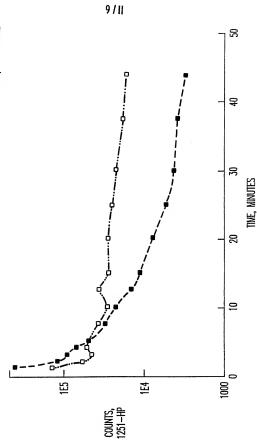
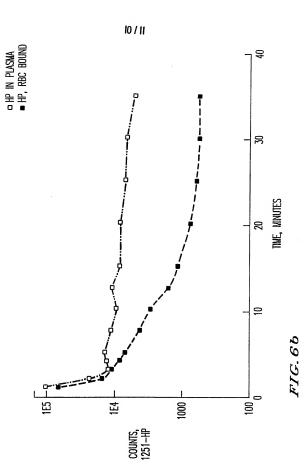
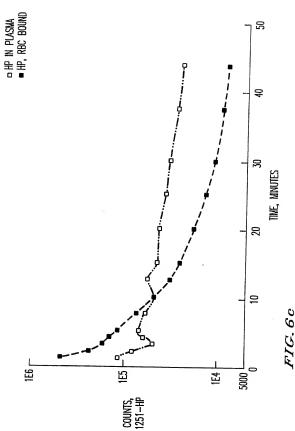


FIG. 6c







INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.PCT/US91/07158

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Nui Tii Cel Ani In	e Journal of Immunolog meeter 9. issued 01 Nove tus et al. "Human K/Va Ils Targeted With Hete tibodies Specifically Vitro and Prevent Tum o". pages 3153-3158.	mber 1987. tural Killer ro-Cross-Linked lyse Tumor Cells or Growth In	1-10
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. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEE	
tegory *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
Y	The Journal of Immunology, Volume 139. Number 11, issued 01 December 1987, Edberg et al. "Quantitative Analysis of The Binding of Soluble Complement-Fixing Antibody/dsDNA Immune Complexes to CR1 on Human Red Cross Cells". pages 3739-3747. See entire article.	1-10
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